

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Cassandra Mulcahy and I am a concerned citizen from Danbury, CT.

I am writing you to ask for your support of **Raised Senate Bill 354**, a bill that will create a music therapy license in Connecticut . This bill is important because it will allow Connecticut citizens to more easily access music therapy services, and it will protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

Please note that my support of licensure for music therapy is dependent on some language changes which have been submitted as written testimony by Jennifer Sokira on behalf of the CT Task Force. These changes ensure that the license is reflective of current board certification requirements in music therapy and is not limiting to the practices of Board Certified Music Therapists currently in CT.

I am a music therapist who has seen the benefit of music therapy With many populations of individuals. I currently work for bridgeport hospital and Connecticut music therapy services. I work with adult psychiatry and I see the symptom relief that music provides to those with hallucinations. I have experienced the effects of insight development on individuals who do not realize the extent of their illness. I have observed the power music has on improving symptoms of severe depression and grounding of mania. I have watched hope spring from disengaged elderly as I work at bedside. While patients undergo testing, procedures, medication trials, when they receive a new diagnosis that results in the complete rewiring of their understanding of self, they understandably report a loss of dignity and identity. Music therapy enables patients to reconnect to their humanity, enabling them to reconnect to the positive memories of their old self and integrate into a new awareness. I have observed children who are non verbal and non ambulatory engage with me in the only language they are able to communicate in; music. Music serves as a vital gateway toward the development of communication skills with these children and with individuals on the autism spectrum.

These are just a few ways I have been able to use music as a transformative therapy for individuals of all ages...

For these reasons, I ask that you please vote “yes” on **Raised Senate Bill 354!**

Sincerely,

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